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Lunesdale Rural District Council

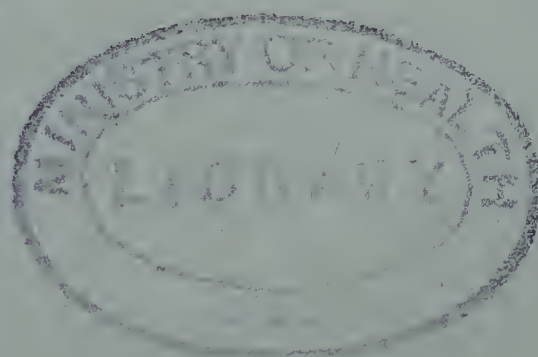
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1954



Lunesdale Rural District Council

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LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council:

ALD. W. J. GARNETT, D.L., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

W. BRAITHWAITE, ESQ.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman:

MRS. M. DOWBIGGIN.

Vice-Chairman:

H. SHANNON, ESQ.

Committee:

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Clerk of the Council:

J. A. HALLSWORTH, ESQ., D.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. WARBURTON.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District during 1954.

The estimated home population at 30th June, 1954, was 7,140, being 134 less than the previous year's estimate.

There were 125 live births during the year, 11 more than in 1953, giving a crude birth rate of 17.5 per 1,000 population. The adjusted birth rate (*i.e.*, adjusted to allow for differences in sex and age distribution of the population) was 18.0 per 1,000, which may be compared with the crude rate of 15.2 for England and Wales.

The total number of deaths assigned to the District was 77, equivalent to a crude death rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population and exactly equal to the average rate for the five preceding years. The adjusted rate for 1954 was 10.3, which may be compared with the figure of 15.2 for England and Wales. In order of importance the chief causes of death were heart disease, which accounted for 41 or 53.2% of the total deaths, followed by vascular lesions of the nervous system with 16 or 20.8%. There were 5 deaths from cancer (all forms) as against 17 deaths from this cause in 1953.

No deaths from maternal causes occurred. Only one infant death was recorded, equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 8 per 1,000 live births. The average infant mortality rate for the preceding five years was 21.2 per 1,000, the rate for the Administrative County Area being 31.8 over the same period.

There was a reduction in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1954, due mainly to a smaller incidence of measles and scarlet fever than in the previous year. Attention has

been drawn in the body of the report to the facilities available for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and whooping cough. Nine new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1954, the highest number in recent years; vigilance and the well-proven measures of prevention are still essential. A number of cases or suspect cases of food poisoning were investigated but in no instance was the causal organism successfully isolated or identified.

The detailed report of the Sanitary Inspector, in Section D, gives information on the various environmental services which, despite all the advances made, remain of fundamental importance to the health and well-being of the community.

During 1954 the Council built 16 houses and a further 19 were constructed by private enterprise, making a total of 35 new houses completed and occupied by the end of the year. As a result of recent housing legislation more attention is being devoted to the repair and improvement of old houses and to the demolition or closing of houses considered unfit for human habitation.

Quite a number of owner/occupied old houses in the District have been brought up to modern standards by means of improvement grants. It does not seem, however, that the many privately rented old houses can be dealt with in this way so long as rent control persists, because many of them require substantial repairs (on which no grant is payable) as well as the provision of modern amenities.

The Council have devoted much time and thought to schemes for the provision of improved sewerage and modern sewage disposal plants, and it is pleasing to note that work on two of these schemes at Nether Kellet and Over Kellet is now well under way.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to the officers of the Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/54)	...						7,140
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	...	...					1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)...							2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1954)	...	...					2,247
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1954)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.13
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1954)	...	...	...				0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1954)	...	...					0.09
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	...	£45,784
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	...	...					£161.750

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Lime Stone Quarrying.

Brick manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

						Male	Female	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	...	...	...			60	62	122
(Illegitimate)	...	...	...			1	2	3
TOTAL						61	64	125
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated						Crude :		17.5
home population, mid/54.						Adjusted :		18.0
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)								16
Deaths (Total)	...	...	...	...	...	45	32	77
Death-Rate per 1,000						Crude :		10.8
estimated home population						Adjusted :		10.3
Maternal Mortality :—								
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion								Nil.
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								Nil.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—								
No. of Deaths registered								1
Death-Rate :—								
All Infants per 1,000 live births								8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births								8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births								Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality :—								
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age								1
Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births								8

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	9	16
Coronary disease, angina	15	4	19
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	9	8	17
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...	45	32	77

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954 AND THE PERIOD 1949—1953.

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1954	125	17.5*	77	10.8*	2	16	Nil.	Nil.	1	8	1	8
1953	114	15.7	75	10.3	2	17	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
1952	133	18.3	71	9.8	1	7	1	7.46	2	15	1	8
1951	121	16.7	101	13.9	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	25	2	17
1950	117	15.6	85	11.3	5	41	Nil.	Nil.	2	17	2	17
1949	124	16.7	63	8.5	2	16	Nil.	Nil.	5	40	Nil.	Nil.
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1949-1953	—	16.6	—	10.8	—	17.8	—	1.5	—	21.2	—	10.2

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.03) = 18.0 per 1,000
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 10.3 per 1,000

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street,
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

Clinics.

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) The Village Institute, Hornby : First Thursday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) The Institute, Caton : First and Third Wednesday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

2. DENTAL.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Thurnham House, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and small-pox can be provided free of charge at the Child Welfare Centres at Caton, Hornby and Carnforth : by arrangement as required.
- (b) The same service can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

4. OPHTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Thurnham House, Lancaster : By arrangement.

6. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

7. SPEECH THERAPY.

Ryelands House, Lancaster : Wednesdays and Thursdays, by appointment.

Convalescence

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

Health Visiting Service

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

Home Help Service

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows :—

Caton : “ Milford,” Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby : 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

Laboratory Service

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

Mental Health Service

Medical Officers and mental health workers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental defectives and for the supervision and training of those in the community. An Occupation Centre for the training of mentally defective children is available in Lancaster. The duly authorised officers are concerned also in securing the admission to hospital of those in urgent need of treatment for mental illness, and in their care after discharge from hospital.

Nursing Homes

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton. Telephone 134.

Welfare Services

The following welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided at Bay View, Lancaster; the Empress Hostel, Morecambe; and Moor Platt Hostel, Caton.

(b) TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

In case of urgent need, *e.g.*, eviction, temporary accommodation is provided at Bay View, Lancaster.

(c) RECEPTION CENTRE

Part of the premises at Bay View is used for the reception of persons without a settled way of life, by arrangement between the National Assistance Board and the County Council.

(d) HANDICAPPED PERSONS

For persons who are blind or deaf or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped certain welfare provisions are made available either directly or through the agency of voluntary societies.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period—Years								
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	6	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	58	1	17	14	25	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	39	2	7	9	20	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- myelitis—										
Paralytic ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute enceph- alitis— Post										
infectious ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Total cases ...	110	4	24	25	49	2	2	1	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Groups	New Cases		Deaths.	
	Respiratory	Other Forms	Respiratory	Other Forms
0—	1	1	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—
20—	—	1	—	—
25—	3	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	3	—	1	1
55—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—
Totals	9	3	1	1

1.—TOTAL INCIDENCE

During 1954 infectious diseases as a whole were less prevalent than in 1953; including tuberculosis 122 cases were notified as against 152 in the previous year.

2.—DIPHTHERIA AND SCARLET FEVER

Only six cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 28 last year.

Once again no cases of diphtheria occurred in the District and for the first time on record no death from diphtheria occurred in the whole of the Administrative County of Lancashire. With the almost complete absence of diphtheria there is a tendency for the public to regard preventive measures as no longer necessary, but the often tragic result of this disease in children who have not been immunised should not be forgotten.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at school clinics and child welfare centres. It is imperative that the maximum number possible should be immunised in infancy, and it is desirable that older children should be maintained in an active

state of immunity by means of reinforcement injections. In the following tables the numbers of Lunesdale children immunised during the last four years are compared.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS PERFORMED — 1951 to 1954

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the period.									
	Age at final injection								
Year	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total under 5 years	5-9	10-14	Total 5-14 years
1954	47	36	7	4	2	96	18	3	21
1953	40	37	4	3	2	86	21	2	23
1952	40	34	11	5	4	94	15	2	17
1951	30	43	4	1	1	79	9	—	9
Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection <i>i.e.</i> , subsequent to complete course									
	Age Group								
Year	0-4		5-9		10-14		Total under 15 years		
1954	...	...	13	91	35	139			
1953	...	...	12	105	29	146			
1952	...	...	12	103	19	134			
1951	...	...	7	56	13	76			

3. MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Fifty-eight cases of measles and 39 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, as compared with 67 and 26 respectively for 1953. The efficacy of whooping cough vaccine is now receiving wider recognition, and a combined diphtheria—pertussis prophylactic which confers a considerable degree of immunity against both diseases, is becoming increasingly popular. Fewer injections are required with the combined vaccine.

4.—POLIOMYELITIS

One case of infantile paralysis of moderate severity occurred; recovery was good although some functional limitation has resulted.

5.—DYSENTERY AND FOOD POISONING

No cases of sonne dysentery were notified during the year, as against 8 notifications in 1953. The incidence of food poisoning also decreased, from 11 cases in 1953 to 3 cases in 1954. Investigations made in connection with a party of people passing through the District by motor coach and suspected to be suffering from food poisoning, revealed no evidence that the infection was of local origin.

6.—TUBERCULOSIS

In 1954 there were two deaths from tuberculosis (1 respiratory 1 non-respiratory) compared with one death from respiratory tuberculosis in the previous year. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis has continued to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last six years.

In regard to the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis over the same period, however, there is less evidence of a similar favourable trend in either local or national statistics. Locally 9 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1954 as compared with 3 cases in 1953. Three new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also notified, being one more than in the previous year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Taken as a whole, the area is reasonably well served with water from the Council's mains and a good supply is offered to most properties with the exception of the remote and high-lying farms in the south and east portions of the District.

The chief source of supply is obtained from the Thirlmere Aqueduct which passes through the District from North to South and four main connections and one subsidiary connection have been made with the agreement of the Manchester Corporation for bulk supplies to be obtained at suitable points.

These connections provide water to properties in the following parishes :—

- (1) Arkholme, Whittington, Aughton, Gressingham, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington and Tatham—this being known as the Regional Scheme.
- (2) Borwick—a separate scheme, which after serving properties in the Area, passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

The subsidiary connection from the Aqueduct serves part of the parish of Caton but this supply is only brought into use in times of emergency.

In addition to the above, the Council have two schemes under their own direct management, one known as the Hornby Castle Scheme to provide water to houses in parts of the parishes of Hornby and Wray, and the other serves a part of the parish of Caton.

The Hornby Castle Scheme was originally installed by the owners of the Hornby Castle Estate and was purchased by the Council in 1938 when the Estate was sold. The water is obtained from an intake on the River Roeburn and is treated by passing through settling tanks, slow sand filters and chlorinated prior to storage. Dechlorination takes place as the water leaves the works by means of a carbon filter which has been in operation since 1948. This filter has proved to be most satisfactory.

The Caton Scheme was installed as a private supply about 70 years ago, and was purchased in 1905 from the Caton Water Company. Two intakes from a stream known as “Traitors’ Gill,” and one from Tarn Brook provide the supply and water passes through a gravel filter before being stored in an open reservoir of nearly 1,000,000 gallons capacity. On leaving the reservoir the water is chlorinated by means of a Hypo-chlorinator on the main.

Seventy-five houses in the parishes of Quernmore and Halton are connected to mains serving the City of Lancaster. Of these properties 12 houses in Quernmore are provided with water before any treatment takes place owing to their situation above the treatment plant but no complaints regarding this source of supply have been received.

Four properties near the Westmorland Border are provided with water from the South Westmorland Rural District Council's main, the water being purchased in bulk by the Council.

A private supply owned by the Claughton Manor Brick Company, serves about 40 houses in the parish of Claughton. Collected from a spring on the hillside, the water is passed through a rough gravel filter and stored in an open reservoir of some 12,000 gallons capacity before being piped to the houses. A wide variation in the quality of this supply is shown on bacteriological examination, and in times of drought, occupiers of the properties served have difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply.

In the village of Farleton, a private supply provides water of doubtful purity to seven houses, three of them being farms and this source also tends to diminish rapidly during spells of prolonged dry weather.

A scheme for the extension of the mains on the Hornby Castle Supply to serve these two latter portions of the District has been in being for some considerable time. It was stressed in my last Annual Report that this was a scheme of some urgency which should be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity and it is pleasing to report that towards the end of the year, the Ministry approved the scheme. Tenders for this work were later obtained and it is hoped the pipeline will be completed before the end of 1955.

No major extensions to the Council's mains were undertaken during the year apart from services to new properties but the relaying of portions of old mains is continuing as a matter of policy.

The following table gives an estimate of the supplies to properties in the individual parishes and the population served at the end of the year.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	Direct to Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	53	163	27	96
Borwick	38	115	9	27
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	47	129	6	20
Cantsfield	20	70	3	15
Caton-with-Littledale ...	428	1,388	50	164
Claughton	—	—	41	107
Gressingham	44	117	4	14
Halton-with-Aughton ...	323	1,128	12	41
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	136	428	15	45
Ireby	15	63	6	22
Nether Kellet	78	270	3	11
Over Kellet	101	300	34	110
Leck	50	169	10	36
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	62	228	—	—
Quernmore	82	290	92	323
Roeburndale	—	—	20	96
Tatham	49	183	69	257
Tunstall	25	80	5	14
Wennington	44	146	1	4
Whittington	76	232	22	67
Wray-with-Botton	115	356	27	122
Total Whole District ...	1,786	5,855	456	1,591

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies.

Samples of water from various sources are forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination, and the results of analysis of the specimens submitted during 1954 are set out below :—

Number of samples of raw water submitted ...	19
Number found to be satisfactory	9
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	10
Number of samples of treated water submitted ...	27
Number found to be Satisfactory	23
Number found to be Unsatisfactory	4

On receipt of the unsatisfactory reports on public supplies the dosage of chlorine is increased and a systematic flushing of the mains carried out. Owners of private supplies are also notified of unsatisfactory reports and advised as to the possible sources of contamination and the action necessary to remedy the defects.

Chemical Examination.

Three samples of treated water from public mains were submitted for chemical analysis to the Public Analyst at Preston. The reports on these specimens were all satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Although the district is well provided with piped water supplies, the sewerage and sewage disposal facilities throughout the area are quite inadequate and insufficient. Probably adequate at the time they were constructed, many of these sewage systems are now obsolescent and the provision of adequate facilities for the safe removal and disposal of waste products has become an urgent and important necessity.

Where sewers are available, the treatment plants if any, are grossly overloaded, as these consist of small tanks, constructed many years ago and not designed to cope with modern domestic amenities such as baths, and w.c's. Where no treatment plant is provided on the sewers, the outfall is usually sited in the river or nearest stream thus causing pollution and giving rise to serious complaints from the Lancashire River Board. These complaints can only be eliminated by the provision of adequate modern treatment works in the larger centres of population in the District. In the villages and at isolated premises where no sewers are provided, owners of properties have provided small treatment tanks on their own land but here again pollution of the nearest water course takes place in many instances owing to the inadequacy of the tanks to deal with the bulk of sewage passing through them or to insufficient maintenance.

It is pleasing to report that an attempt has been made to deal with this unsatisfactory state of affairs during the year. Two contracts have been let for the provision of sewers and disposal works in the villages of Nether Kellet and Over Kellet, and although the whole of the work will not be completed before the end of 1955, it is hoped that considerable progress will have been made.

Two Ministerial enquiries have been held during the year relative to the provision of new works in the villages of Caton and Halton, and it is anticipated that approval will be forthcoming to the proposals put forward. Should these hopes materialise and the work be completed in a reasonable time, the Council will, without doubt, be allowed to proceed with other schemes which are already in course of preparation for submission to the Ministry for other villages in the District.

Conditions prevailing in various parts of the District have not materially altered since my last report and details are again set out below.

Arkholme.—There are no sewers or treatment works provided but houses where water closets are installed have septic tanks. Sink waste drainage is dealt with in some cases by the surface water drains.

Borwick.—No sewers or treatment works provided. Drains from several properties are connected to septic tanks.

Burrow.—Similar conditions prevail.

Cantsfield.—Properties provided with water closets have their own tanks.

Caton.—Most of the properties in the village are provided with water closets and an old system of sewerage is provided. Treatment is most unsatisfactorily provided at four separate tanks, but all are seriously overloaded and inadequate to meet present day needs.

Brookhouse.—A separate hamlet in Caton parish, has a sewerage system, the treatment being by settlement and land irrigation. These works are obsolete and the irrigation area inadequate. In an effort to eliminate the complaints from the River Board, a large filter tank was constructed during the year in lieu of the land irrigation method. This is only a temporary experiment and will be abandoned when the new scheme for Caton and Brookhouse is completed.

Claughton.—No sewers are provided and only a few houses with water closets have treatment tanks.

Gressingham.—No sewers are available. Most houses have privies or pails but those with water closets drain to private tanks.

Halton.—This village is sewered and almost every house has a fresh water closet. No treatment works are provided and the sewage discharges direct into the River Lune at two points, causing pollution which has given rise to numerous complaints.

Hornby.—Sewers are provided in the village but treatment is unsatisfactory with resultant pollution of the river and a stream, the treatment tanks being seriously overloaded and out of date.

Farleton.—No sewers or treatment works available.

Ireby.—No sewers or treatment works are provided in this hamlet, sink waste drainage from most properties is discharged into the local stream.

Nether Kellet.—A number of houses are connected to an old surface water sewer which passes through the village and discharges, without treatment, into a small stream. Complaints regarding the pollution of this stream are frequent.

Over Kellet.—Similar conditions prevail as mentioned above for Nether Kellet, sewage and sink waste drainage is discharged into two streams passing through the village.

Leck and Cowan Bridge.—Properties with water closets have their own tanks but otherwise sink waste drainage ultimately finds its way into a stream.

Melling-with-Wrayton.—Nearly all the properties have water closets and small septic tanks are provided.

Quernmore.—There are few groups of houses in this scattered parish and no sewers are available. Houses with water-borne sanitation have their own tanks.

Roeburndale.—Dwelling-houses in this parish are mostly farms and no public sewers are available.

Tatham.—A very scattered moorland parish with no sewers. Septic tanks are provided to deal with individual water closets in the farm properties.

Tunstall.—No sewers or disposal plant provided, but houses with water closets are served by small tanks.

Wennington.—Individual or joint tanks are used for sewage treatment, but no sewers are provided.

Whittington.—Two tanks are provided at the northern end of the village to deal with sewage passed from an old surface water drain, serving properties in the vicinity, the rest of the property where water closets are installed, are provided with tanks.

Wray-with-Botton.—Sewers are provided and sewage is treated in tanks, one at each end of the village. These tanks are seriously overloaded and the effluent is the source of complaint from local residents and the River Board.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the Area at the end of the year :—

No. of Pail Closets ... 60	No. of Ashbins... ... 2,440
No. of Privy Middens 600	No. of Closets attached ... 650
No. of Houses on Water	No. of Fresh Water
Carriage System ... 1,395	Closets 1,689

Conversions during 1954 :—

No. of Privy Closets to Water Closets 20
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable Ashbins 6

It will be appreciated that very little progress can be made in converting the large number of privies to water closets until proper and efficient sewers and treatment works are provided for the various villages. Where conversions have taken place, small septic tanks have been provided, and these have, for the most part, been in connection with houses away from villages and possible sewerage schemes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertake the collection of household refuse throughout the area on a fortnightly basis; five workmen and two vehicles are employed on this. One vehicle, a Karrier of 10 cubic yards capacity, with a crew of three men, serves the more populous centres of the District, and the other vehicle, a Bedford of 7 cubic yards capacity, with two men, is used for the more outlying and scattered parts of the area.

For the twelve months ending December, 1954, figures show that refuse was removed from 52,325 ashbins and 3,263 ashpits and during that period, the two vehicles travelled 17,882 miles. As mentioned in previous reports these figures show a progressive increase from year to year, due to the erection of new houses in the District, and also to the fact that more and more householders, in parts of the district not at present covered by the service are making application for their refuse to be removed. The time is fast approaching when additional labour and vehicles will have to be provided to maintain even a fortnightly collection. Privies and pail closets are cleansed during routine refuse collection and complaints have been received from time to time of the spillage from vehicles when this work is being carried out. Reasonable precautions are adopted to remedy these

complaints but only the provision of adequate sewage treatment works and the ultimate conversion of these obsolete types of convenience will rectify the trouble.

The disposal of refuse in the District is carried out on a tip at Timpenny Quarry in the parish of Nether Kellet. This tip is sited on the northern side of the River Lune and is not readily accessible for all parts of the area; long hauls are necessary for the disposal of refuse collected in the more eastern portion of the District. The Council have considered this matter on a number of occasions but no alternative site of a suitable nature has yet been found which would cut down haulage costs.

Waste-paper salvage was continued during the year and 23 tons 18 cwt., 2 quarters of this material were collected and disposed of. A bonus scheme for the workmen is in operation and the quantity of material collected has shown a slight increase during the past two or three years whilst the scheme has been in operation.

HOUSING.

Since the building programme commenced in 1946, the Council have constructed new houses in almost every parish in the Area, the exceptions being the more remote parts of the District where services such as water and sewerage lead to difficulties. During 1954, 14 houses and two house/shops were finally completed by the Council's contractors and work was in progress on a further 11 houses and 2 house/shops. Private enterprise building in the District has increased since the lifting of the Regulations early in the year and 19 new houses were constructed and occupied during the twelve months. Works were in progress on a number of sites, for individual houses in various parts of the District. On one particular site, a contractor has been given Planning Consent for the development of some 3.3 acres and he proposes to construct 41 houses on the site. Development of this nature is somewhat difficult as owners of land in or near villages are very reluctant to sell even small portions of their land for private building purposes.

At the end of the year there were 152 applications outstanding from persons desirous of obtaining Council house accommodation and of these, 121 have applied for houses in either Caton, Halton or Hornby. Proposals are in hand for the construction of further houses in the two former parishes but development of the site in Caton is held up owing to sewerage difficulties.

Overcrowding is not a major problem in the area and only two cases were on record at the end of the year.

Taking the area as a whole, the standard of housing accommodation is reasonably good. Most of the older houses are built of local stone with slate or stone slab roofs but it will be appreciated that owing to the high costs involved new houses are now being built in brick, chiefly of local manufacture, and the external walls are being rendered or roughcast to make them harmonise as far as possible with houses in the neighbourhood.

Whilst many of the older houses are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water supplies, the fabric of the property is quite sound. Dampness is, to some extent, to be expected and great difficulty would be experienced in providing those houses with adequate damp-proof courses to eliminate this trouble.

It is estimated that approximately 50 per cent. of the houses in the District are owner/occupied and modern amenities are being gradually installed in a number of houses as soon as financial circumstances permit. The provision of these necessary amenities is being held up in many villages owing to the lack of adequate sewage facilities, a point which has been stressed in these reports for many years. Properties occupied on a rental basis also lack these facilities but this is only to be expected when it is realised that there are houses in good general repair let at rentals of as little as three shillings and sixpence per week.

With the coming into operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, at the beginning of the year, it was anticipated that an incentive would be given to owners to improve conditions for tenants of properties but, so far as this District has been concerned, there appears to have been little advantage taken of the provisions of the Act. To assist owners to keep their houses in a reasonable state of repair and arrest deterioration which may be setting in, particularly in older houses, the Act allows certain increases in rent. Tenants have the right of appeal against the increase following due notice, but both landlords and tenants seem reluctant to accept the help provided.

The operation of the Improvement Grant provisions of the 1949 Housing Act calls for comment. Your Public Health Committee soon realised the amount of work this legislation involved and each case is rigorously scrutinised by the Committee before any decision is made on the application. The provisions of the Act relating to financial assistance for the renovation and modernisation of houses, is, without doubt, becoming more widely known but it is significant that most of the enquiries dealt with during the year have been from owner/occupiers. The response by the owners of rented properties has been negligible. This is a most unfortunate state of affairs but one over which neither the Council nor any Ministerial Department has any control.

Viewed from the Public Health angle, the making of grants for the improvement and renovation of property is well worth the expenditure incurred. It must be admitted that the preservation of the better-type of older houses in particular is sound economics. The other alternative, that is of allowing property to deteriorate to such a degree as to warrant demolition, not only throws a strain on to the financial resources of the community as a whole but also tends to make tenants very dissatisfied with their lot and in the long run has a prejudicial effect upon the general health of the occupants of such houses.

During the past twelve months, 19 applications in respect of 20 houses were received and examined by the Public Health Committee. Of these, 15 applications for 16 houses were approved, the estimated cost of the proposed works for grant purposes being £10,310 3s. 11d. In addition to the works under the scheme, repairs were also carried out to these houses, estimates of which are not included in the above figures.

Work on four houses was finally completed during the year involving the payment of £930 in grants, and the total amount paid to owners under the scheme since it came into operation is £2,045 relative to 9 houses.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year	...	...	...	...	242
No. of Visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	367
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	168
No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	296
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit...	...	...	...	...	35
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	31
No. of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil.
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

The majority of the shops in the District are small semi-domestic businesses, very few having employees outside the proprietors' domestic circle. There are 43 premises of this nature in the area, and these are visited at least twice each year. It has not been found necessary to take any action for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Meat Inspection.

Until July, when controls were removed, almost all meat consumed in the District was obtained from animals slaughtered at the Central Slaughterhouses in Lancaster or Kendal.

As was anticipated, however, local butchers were desirous of using their own premises on decontrol and meetings with these traders were held and difficulties discussed. The proposed premises were inspected and the butchers informed as to what the Council desired in the way of improvements and repairs to bring the premises to a reasonable standard. Two private slaughterhouses were licensed and both these are situated in the village of Caton. The butchers concerned have carried out the Council's requirements and their co-operation in this and other matters connected with meat inspection is appreciated.

The following tables set out details as to the number of animals slaughtered and examined since the coming into operation of private slaughtering and the amount of meat found unfit for consumption.

Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined.

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	56	5	Nil.	344	21
Number inspected	56	5	Nil.	344	21
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	12	3	Nil	59	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.2	60	Nil	17.1	4
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	7.1	40.0	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars of Meat Condemned—Not Tuberculosis.

14 Beast Livers	}	Total weight 319 lbs.
59 Sheep Livers		
1 Pig Carcase		

Tuberculosis.

Heads and Tongues of 2 Cows	}	Total weight 135 lbs.
Lungs of 1 Cow		
Head and Tongue of 1 Heifer		
Lungs of 3 Heifers		
Livers of 3 Heifers		
Diaphragms of 3 Heifers		

(b) Other Foodstuffs.

Food-preparing premises and shops are regularly inspected and have been found to be of a reasonable standard and the Ministry of Food Buffer Depot at Claughton is periodically visited and stocks of foodstuffs examined. It has only been found necessary to condemn one tin of prepared meat weighing 6 lbs. during the year.

Most shop keepers in the area find that by drawing the attention of their wholesalers to any defects, particularly in canned goods, these are replaced by the suppliers on the return of the goods, and the ultimate disposal of rejected foodstuffs is in the hands of the suppliers in cases of this nature.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The great bulk of milk produced in the Area is provided by farmers who are wholesalers, the milk being removed to large dairies outside the district, for treatment on these premises prior to distribution.

Most of the milk sold in the area for local consumption is obtained from farms with either Accredited or T.T. herds whilst three retailers are registered with the Council for the sale of T.T. Pasteurised milk which is obtained from wholesalers with dairies in other districts.

Samples of milk sold by retailers in the area are obtained from time to time for examination by the staff of the Pathological Department of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. Reports are obtained on the

keeping quality and cleanliness of the milk, and also for the presence of tubercle bacilli in the case of raw milk and the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests for Pasteurised Milks. Twenty-eight samples of raw milk and 4 specimens of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination during the year and all were reported upon as satisfactory in every respect.

School children in the Area are provided with milk from Pasteurised or T.T. retailers and samples are regularly obtained by the staff of the County Council for submission to the County Analyst at Preston.

RODENT CONTROL.

Three employees of the Council have been trained for work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act and work on a part-time basis when called upon and carry out treatment of premises where necessary. Details are given below of the work carried out during the twelve months ended the 31st March, last, and it is pleasing to report that once again it has not been necessary to serve any notices for the proofing of buildings under the Act.

Many farmers in the District have contracts with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive for the regular routine treatment of their premises and the Council endeavour to co-operate with the Committee in this work.

Routine visits are paid to the refuse tip and treatment periodically carried out where necessary. Sewers are treated twice each year to comply with Ministerial requirements.

Set out below are details of the premises visited and treated during the year and also particulars of the work on sewers throughout the District :—

No. of properties visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	425
No. of premises found to be infested by rats : major...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
minor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
No. of premises found to be infested by mice...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of infested premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
No. of " Block " Control Schemes carried out...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Sewer Treatment.

Total number of manholes baited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Number of manholes showing complete poison take...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of manholes showing part poison take...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

There were 52 premises of this nature on the register at the end of the year and visits have been made on 81 occasions during the past twelve months.

Very little complaint can be made regarding the condition of these works. During the year two proprietors were requested to clean down their premises and this work was carried out without delay.

